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May 4, 2000
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NEWS RELEASE

A SUMMER CAMP WITH A TWIST: SPORTS ARE THE HOOK TO KEEP YOUTH OFF THE STREETS

DAYTON, Ohio — Sports are the hook, but the idea behind the University of Dayton's award-winning National Youth Sports Program is to expose disadvantaged youth to a campus atmosphere and to educational programs on alcohol and drug-abuse prevention, nutrition, personal health and career opportunities for college graduates.

As UD enters its 32nd year of running the summer camp, it's looking for youth between the ages of 10 and 16 to participate in the program, which runs from June 12-July 21. Students can register between now and June 10 through area public and parochial schools, priority board offices or by calling the University of Dayton at 229-4567. The program, which accommodates 700 children annually, is free to those who meet federal income guidelines.

NYSP, which is funded by the National Collegiate Athletic Association with other private support, teaches good sportsmanship, self-respect, athletic skills and life skills, according to John Ralph, NYSP project administrator and assistant director of diverse student populations at UD. Athletic activities encompass swimming, aerobics, volleyball, basketball, tennis, softball, soccer and flag football. The counselors include UD staff and students. Last year, the program won a top 25 award (out of 200 programs nationally) for its math and science education component.

"It's a remarkable program for everyone involved," Ralph said. "Kids learn to swim and play tennis among other sports as well as learn valuable lessons in math, science, drug and alcohol prevention, and life skills. They also get instruction on eating healthy and career planning. For many of them, NYSP is their best shot at staying off the streets during the summer."

For more information, call John Ralph at 229-4567 or e-mail ralph@yar.udayton.edu.

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